Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

April 15, 2005

Direct Loan

COD News

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, April 17, 2005 (04/13/05)
The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, April 17, 2005 from 2:00
A.M. until 8:00 A.M. (ET). During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve
data via the COD Web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not
processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD apologizes for any
inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School
Relations Center.

**Extended Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web Site Outage For Sunday, April 17, 2005
(04/13/05)**
As a reminder, the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site is
unavailable every Sunday morning from 5:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) while routine
maintenance is performed. During this period, borrowers are not able to complete new
MPNs electronically or retrieve existing MPNs that were completed electronically.

Due to COD System routine maintenance on Sunday, April 17, 2005, the Direct Loan
Electronic MPN Web site will be unavailable for an extended period of time from 2:00
A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET). As previously noted, borrowers will not be able to complete
or retrieve MPNs during this extended period.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions,
contact the COD School Relations Center.

Upcoming EDconnect And SAIG Security Enhancements (04/13/05)
The Department recently announced upcoming enhancements to Student Aid Internet
Gateway (SAIG) security and a new release of the EDconnect software. As most of you are
aware, EDconnect is the Windows-based software that the financial aid community uses to
transmit Title IV data to and receive data from the Department of Education. EDconnect,
Version 7.0, will be available on the FSAdownload Web site (http://fsadownload.ed.gov) in
May 2005.

Although the EDconnect functionality has not changed significantly, COD encourages
schools to read the Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site at
http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0411SAIGupcomingchanges.html for detailed
information on the software enhancements.

COD Processing Update

Direct Loan Operations Team E-mail Address Not Working (04/07/05)
Recently, through Direct Loan Bulletin 05-03, FSA informed schools of an e-mail address for the Direct Loan Operations Team. At this time, the e-mail address, dlops@ed.gov, is not working. As a result, schools submitting e-mails to this address may receive an "undeliverable" message in return.

FSA is resolving the e-mail address issue and expects to have proper functioning restored very soon. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 03/21/05)]
Now that the 2005-2006 COD software has been implemented, COD wants to refresh the reminder that *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year and forward. This means that *all* schools (including COD Phase-In Participants that currently submit and receive information using fixed-length, flat-file record formats) must send and receive 2005-2006 (and subsequent award year) origination and disbursement data for the Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan programs to the COD System using the Extensible Markup Language (XML) Common Record.

As FSA has previously informed schools, if a school submits 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data in fixed-length, flat-file record formats, the COD System will reject the data and the school's access to funding will be affected. If your school has not yet signed up as a Full Participant, or is experiencing difficulty with implementing a Full Participant solution, contact the COD School Relations Center immediately for assistance.

Additionally, COD is seeking current Full Participant schools that are willing to serve as mentors to schools new to XML processing. If your school is interested in serving as a mentor, or, if your school is new to XML processing and is interested in working with a mentor, contact the COD School Relations Center. COD will assist in connecting like schools with each other.
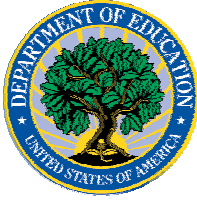
Reports and Data Requests

ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Direct Loan reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP Web site at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Direct Loan reports and/or data requests:

- Direct Loan Rebuild File— Cannot be requested on the COD Web site. However, schools in need of this file should contact the COD School Relations Center to discuss their options. [08/25/04 (Updated 04/13/05)]

COD Processing Update

• MPN Discharge Reports— • MPNs Due To Expire Reports— • Expired MPN Reports—	Were sent to some schools containing an incorrect total record byte (length). COD is researching the issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools should notify the COD School Relations Center if they suspect that this situation has occurred. [03/31/05 (Updated 04/08/05)]
• Duplicate Student Borrower Reports—	Have not been sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. However, these reports are available on the COD Web site. COD is currently researching performance issues related to this report. [02/09/05 (Updated 04/05/05)]

Resolved Issues In Clean Up

COD has implemented code fixes for the issues listed below and is cleaning up the affected records. After a clean up has been completed, its status will be updated and it will remain in this section for an additional 7 calendar days.

Issue	In Progress	Completed
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site And/Or SAS	√	

Current Issues

UPDATED!

COD Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 039 [12/27/04 (Updated 04/15/05)]
COD became aware of an issue that results in schools receiving COD Edit 039 (Incorrect Award Amount) in error. This sometimes occurs when schools submit changes to awards to lower the amount to zero through either batch or online processing.

COD has made significant progress in analyzing the issue and is currently developing a code fix. COD will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, please do not resubmit your records. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve this issue.

COD Rejecting Records Incorrectly For COD Edit 12 (02/10/05 (Updated 04/15/05)
COD has identified three situations in which records are rejecting incorrectly for COD Edit 12 (No Eligible SSN, DOB, and Last Name Combination Match Found on CPS for Student). These situations are as follows:

- Schools are receiving COD Edit 12 for students with prior year Direct Loan Awards in the COD System who have since changed their name or require a change to their date of birth. The schools are attempting to submit updates to Direct Loan origination records. In the reported cases, students have updated their SARs appropriately and there are valid CPS transactions on file in the COD System.

  COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation, contact the COD School Relations Center.

UPDATED!

- An award is being established in the COD System; however, a rejected response (COD Edit 12) is being sent back to the school.

  COD is currently developing a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation contact the COD School Relations Center.

- When making online changes to names that contain a space rather than a character, schools are receiving COD Edit 12.

  COD is aware that this is occurring and is in the process of developing a code fix to resolve this situation. At this time, there is no need to contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected records.

COD appreciates your patience as we work to resolve these processing issues and apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these issues.

Phase-In Records Rejecting For COD Edit 846 [03/11/05 (Updated 04/04/05)]
Some schools that have submitted records previously affected by an Edit 56 issue received COD Edit 846 (Total 'Anticipated Gross Amount' must be less than or equal to the Loan Amount Approved). This occurred because a change to the anticipated disbursement amount was submitted along with a reduced award amount, but COD was only accepting the reduced award amount. As a result, COD Edit 846 was returned because the award amount was less than the total anticipated disbursements.

Although the Edit 56 issue was resolved, affected schools' records are still rejecting for COD Edit 846. COD is still developing and testing a code fix to resolve this issue and will continue to keep schools posted on the status. In the meantime, schools can opt to submit the disbursement changes first and then submit the award amount change at least one day later. While this is not ideal, it allows schools the ability to correct the records sooner. Schools that can wait until the code fix is implemented can resubmit the records together.

We apologize for the inconvenience and will inform you when the code fix has been implemented.

Issue With Importing Payment To Servicing Response [03/24/05 (Updated 03/25/04)]
COD and SAIG have identified an issue where some schools are unable to import 2004-2005 Payment to Servicing responses (Message Class CRPS05OP). The situation appears

to be limited to Payment to Servicing responses containing PLUS loan data. The error message EDExpress schools are receiving is "Unable to Import File". Note that schools using a different software may receive a similar error message or a message indicating that the Borrower tag is required. COD and SAIG staff are working on a resolution. Pending this, COD has stopped sending the responses. COD will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Schools may access the COD Web site's Batch Detail Information screen to view specific details on the records in affected batches which have already been sent.

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [09/01/04 (Updated 03/11/05)]
A null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Previously, COD determined that some null tags were being accepted by the COD System, but were not appropriately updating the COD database. This meant that if a school submitted a null tag for some data elements, the COD System was ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element was not being removed. After implementing a code fix to allow the Verification Status Code data element to update the COD database correctly, we informed you that COD was conducting a full review of the null attribute.

Upon implementation of the 2005-2006 software (scheduled for March 18-19, 2005), the COD System will only process a null attribute (nil="true") for the following data elements:
- o First Name, Middle Initial, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Note Message, Dependency Status Code, HPPA Indicator, Less Than Full Time Indicator, Incarcerated Indicator, Verification Status Code

For more information on how nil="true" will update the COD database for each of these data elements, refer to Volume II, Section 3 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted at http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/CODTechRef0506.htm/.

Pell Grants

COD News

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aware, EDconnect is the Windows-based software that the financial aid community uses to
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**All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year
[08/02/04 (Updated 03/21/05)]**
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reminder that *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award
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for the Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan programs to the COD System using the Extensible
Markup Language (XML) Common Record.

As FSA has previously informed schools, if a school submits 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or
Direct Loan data in fixed-length, flat-file record formats, the COD System will reject the
data and the school's access to funding will be affected. If your school has not yet signed
up as a Full Participant, or is experiencing difficulty with implementing a Full Participant
solution, contact the COD School Relations Center immediately for assistance.

Additionally, COD is seeking current Full Participant schools that are willing to serve as
mentors to schools new to XML processing. If your school is interested in serving as a

mentor, or, if your school is new to XML processing and is interested in working with a mentor, contact the COD School Relations Center. COD will assist in connecting like schools with each other.

Pell Grant Year-To-Date Record In Production [12/01/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]
Pell Grant Year-to-Date (YTD) records (PGYRxxOP) are being generated and sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes.

Previously, we informed schools of three COD System issues affecting the Pell Grant YTD record and cautioned schools not to use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issues were resolved. At this time, two of the three issues are no longer affecting the YTD Record.
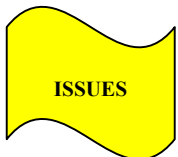
We regret that the one remaining COD System issue continuing to affect the Pell Grant YTD record has taken longer than initially expected to resolve. We continue to caution schools not to use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issue is resolved. The issue is as follows:

- In some cases, when we process more than one disbursement transaction for the same disbursement number on the same day, the individual transactions are *currently not reflected in the YTD record and on the COD Web site*. Instead, one combined disbursement transaction is reflected with the correct disbursement amount, the correct disbursement date, and the highest disbursement sequence number. We are currently researching a code fix and cleanup plan for this issue.

    Note: For a disbursement with this issue, if a school encounters difficulty processing further disbursement activity through its software, the activity can be performed on the COD Web site.

Schools should also refer to the Electronic Announcement that was posted on the IFAP Web site, http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1130PellGrantYTDRecord.html, for additional information on the Pell Grant YTD record. Note: The status of the YTD record will continue to be covered in the Reports and Data Requests section of this document until the COD System issue affecting the YTD record is resolved.
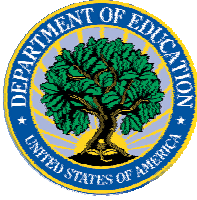

Reports and Data Requests

Except as listed below, all Pell Grant reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP Web site at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

• Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records—	For all award years, are being sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGYRxxOP). The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Until resolution of a current COD System issue affecting the YTD record, we caution a school not to use the current YTD record for rebuilding a complete

student record or Pell database. See the "Pell Grant Year-To Date Record Back In Production" item in the COD News section of this document for an explanation of the issue. [10/05/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]

Resolved Issues In Clean Up

COD has implemented code fixes for the issues listed below and is cleaning up the affected records. After a clean up has been completed, its status will be updated and it will remain in this section for an additional 7 calendar days.

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Current Issues

COD Rejecting Records Incorrectly For COD Edit 12 (02/10/05 (Updated 04/15/05)
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- Schools are receiving COD Edit 12 for students with prior year Direct Loan Awards in the COD System who have since changed their name or require a change to their date of birth. The schools are attempting to submit updates to Direct Loan origination records. In the reported cases, students have updated their SARs appropriately and there are valid CPS transactions on file in the COD System.

  COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- An award is being established in the COD System; however, a rejected response (COD Edit 12) is being sent back to the school.

  COD is currently developing a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation contact the COD School Relations Center.

- When making online changes to names that contain a space rather than a character, schools are receiving COD Edit 12.

UPDATED!

COD is aware that this is occurring and is in the process of developing a code fix to resolve this situation. At this time, there is no need to contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected records.

COD appreciates your patience as we work to resolve these processing issues and apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these issues.

Pell Grant Information Not Updated In NSLDS (04/06/05)
COD transmits Pell Grant records to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) on a daily basis. However, currently, some records are not being transmitted to the NSLDS. This results in student information, such as student identifiers and awards, not being updated in the NSLDS.

COD is working on forwarding the affected records to NSLDS in order to update the NSLDS. COD will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools should refer to the COD Web site for the most current information on a student.

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [08/31/04 (Updated 03/11/05)]
A null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Previously, COD determined that some null tags were being accepted by the COD System, but were not appropriately updating the COD database. This meant that if a school submitted a null tag for some data elements, the COD System was ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element was not being removed. After implementing a code fix to allow the Low Tuition and Fees Code and Verification Status Code data elements to update the COD database correctly, we informed you that COD was conducting a full review of the null attribute.

Upon implementation of the 2005-2006 software (scheduled for March 18-19, 2005), the COD System will only process a null attribute (nil="true") for the following data elements:
   o First Name, Middle Initial, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Note Message, Less Than Full Time Indicator, Incarcerated Indicator, Low Tuition and Fees, Verification Status Code

For more information on how nil="true" will update the COD database for each of these data elements, refer to Volume II, Section 3 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted at http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/CODTechRef0506.htm/.

Schools Unable To Import Response With A Negative Dollar Amount [02/21/05 (Updated 02/22/05)]
COD has learned of an issue affecting some Full Participants that have their Pell Grant Error Processing Option set to "Corrected". COD is returning to some Full Participants, Pell Grant responses with a disbursement amount corrected to a negative value in error. As a result, the affected schools are unable to import the responses. At this time, COD believes this issue is occurring when a Full Participant submits multiple disbursement adjustments for the same disbursement number within the same batch.

If a school suspects that it is experiencing this issue, contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected Batch ID. The COD Development team is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.